



**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**September 27, 2016**

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**SUBJECT: THE 2016 NEIGHBORHOOD AWARDS**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to inform the City Council that on Sept. 15, 2016 the Community Engagement team sent out the 2016 Neighborhood Award application packets to all registered neighborhood association leadership.

Last year, the team received more than 350 paper and online surveys from neighbors, exhibitors and internal staff immediately following The Mayor's Community Engagement Workshops & 2015 Neighborhood Awards. As a result of the valuable feedback received, association leadership can look forward to seeing the following award application improvements:

- Award application packets will now be available for a full eight weeks to allow association leadership more time to discuss the process with their board, request more information from their Community Engagement Liaison and submit their applications. Award application packets will be made available from Sept. 15 through Nov. 10, 2016.
- Award application packets now include a separate application for each award with additional descriptive language in the questions leaders are asked to provide a response to.
- Awards have been expanded to include two different categories – mandatory and voluntary associations. This is an opportunity to recognize neighborhoods according to their unique structure. This expansion will mean two winners for every category with the exception of "Neighborhood of the Year". For example, in the Pride category we will honor:
  - Fort Worth Pride – *mandatory association 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners*
  - Fort Worth Pride – *voluntary association 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners*

This enhancement should encourage a higher level of participation and provide a more equitable way to honor the outstanding efforts of all our neighborhoods.

- In collaboration with the Fort Worth Persons with Disabilities Committee, "The Danny Scarth Award" has been added to our slate of award presentations.
- Last years' rollout of the new "Neighborhood Patrol Officer of the Year" and "Code Compliance Officer of the Year" awards were received with such enthusiasm that they will become permanent additions to our award presentation.

Active online links to the electronic versions of the award application packets will be sent via email, made available on the City's website and posted on Nextdoor. Paper copies will be available at:

- The Community Engagement office located at 818 Missouri Avenue
- City of Fort Worth Libraries
- City of Fort Worth Community Centers

Neighborhood leaders may also contact their assigned Community Engagement Liaison and request a presentation at an upcoming board or association meeting about the awards process. Award application packets will be made available from Sept. 15 through Nov. 10, 2016.

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**Completed 2016 Neighborhood Award Application submissions must be received via email or in person at the Community Engagement office no later than Nov. 10, 2016.**

All award finalists will be notified by the Community Engagement team in mid-December and provided priority registration access to attend "The Mayor's Community Engagement Workshops & Neighborhood Awards".

"The Mayor's Community Engagement Workshops & Neighborhood Awards" will be held on Jan. 7, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Southwestern Seminary inside The Riley Center.

**Registration to attend the "The Mayor's Community Engagement Workshops & Neighborhood Awards" will be open to all registered associations and alliances beginning on Nov. 10, 2016.**

More information about the free workshops being offered at this year's event will be available beginning in October but the Community Engagement team is proud to announce two important enhancements to the workshop portion of this event, based upon neighbor feedback:

- Total time in class has been increased from 45 minutes to 55 minutes for each workshop
- Coffee service and light refreshments will be provided outside the classrooms from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Neighbors are encouraged to visit the Community Engagement webpage at: [www.FortworthTexas.gov/engagement](http://www.FortworthTexas.gov/engagement) or reach out to the team by phone at: (817) 392-6201 or email at: [engagement@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:engagement@fortworthtexas.gov) for more information.

If you have any questions about this IR, please contact Michelle Gutt, Director of Communications & Public Engagement at 817-392-6248 or [michelle.gutt@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:michelle.gutt@fortworthtexas.gov)

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**